

Timely Tidbits ...

Meeting To Address Cemetery Rules/Fees

The Romulus City Council has scheduled an open meeting about proposed changes in regulations and fees at Romulus Memorial Cemetery. The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, September 24, in the Council Chambers at Romulus City Hall (11111 South Wayne Road, at Goddard).

Interested/affected residents are encouraged to attend and share their ideas/concerns.

Taylor Fall Fest

The annual Taylor Fall Fest will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 6, at Heritage Park (12111 Pardee).

Activities and attractions will include free hayrides, free pumpkin decorating, pumpkin-carving demonstrations by the Kuschel family, and a variety of fall-themed offerings from vendors.

There will also be plenty to eat and drink. Dip your own caramel apples for only \$1; enjoy a donut-and-cider combo for \$1; or get a hotdog, chips, and pop for \$3.

Inflatable children's attractions will be available for \$1 per ride or \$5 for an all-day wristband. Craft-making mini-classes will also be offered for \$1.

For more information, please call the City of Taylor Department of Golf, Parks and Recreation at 734-374-3906.

St. Aloysius Church Rededication Set

The St. Aloysius parish is inviting the public to attend the rededication of its newly renovated church on Sunday, October 7, during the 11 a.m. Liturgy. Cardinal Adam Maida, Archbishop of Detroit, will be the chief celebrant. Afterward, everyone is welcome to stop in at the Parish Activity Center to meet the Cardinal and enjoy refreshments.

St. Aloysius Catholic Church is located at 37200 Neville Street in Romulus. For more information, call 734-941-5056. □

Statewide Festivals Make Most of Michigan's Fall Color Season



An early, but lengthened, fall color season should mean colorful views at festivals statewide. (photo by Ann Kreutzer)

Based on information provided by the National Weather Service, AAA is predicting an early, but lengthened, fall color season for Michigan.

"The generally dry weather we are experiencing in northern Michigan is a continuation all the way from spring," said Jim Keysor, meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Gaylord. "Because of the dry weather's stress on the trees, we can expect an early peak of color, and then more of a plateau."

All around the state, communities and businesses are hosting festivals and fairs that focus on fall colors and other seasonal attractions/activities like Halloween, hayrides, and harvest celebrations. A sampling of these are listed below.

Fall color watchers looking for the best viewing opportunities can also call Travel Michigan (888-784-7328) for color updates provided by AAA Michigan each Wednesday throughout the fall color season. Additionally, updates will be posted at both www.AAA.com and www.michigan.org.

Fall Festivals/Fairs Around the State

- Frankenmuth Oktoberfest (now through September 23)
- Fall Festival Days in Hudsonville (Saturdays through October 27)
- Harvest Festival in Coloma (weekends through October 28)
- Festival of the Forks in Albion (September 21–23)

- Michigan Apple Festival in Charlotte (September 22–23)
- Atlanta Area Elk Festival (September 28–30)
- Great Jack-O-Lantern Carnivale in Chesaning (September 29–30)
- Pumpkinfest in Zeeland (October 4–6)
- Red Flannel Fest in Cedar Springs (October 5–6)
- Bangor Apple Festival (October 5–7)
- Trenton Scarecrow Festival (October 5–7)
- Taylor Fall Fest (October 6)
- Firehouse Chili Cook-off in Saline (October 6)
- Boyne Area Fall Harvest & Heritage Festival (October 6–7)
- Huron Township Apple Festival (October 6–7)
- Famous Pumpkin Train in Coopersville (weekends October 6–28)
- Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival in Alpena (October 11–14)
- Happy Apple Days in Port Huron (October 13)
- Appleumpkin Festival in Tecumseh (October 13–14)
- Fall Harvest Festival in Troy (October 31) □

FAQs About Fall Color

What is the best time to view Michigan's fall color?

Generally, the annual seasonal show peaks in stages, beginning at the top of the Upper Peninsula (where it gets cooler first) and then moving southward. Peak color usually is found in the UP between mid September and early October; in the northern Lower Peninsula between late September and mid October; in mid Michigan from early to mid October; and in the southern LP from mid to late October.

Color patterns, however, depend greatly on the weather and other factors.

What makes leaves change color?

Weather conditions in early September largely determine how brilliant each season's color will be. If there are bright, sunny days and cool nights, a great show can be anticipated.

Daylight length is also a determinant. Shorter days cause leaves to stop producing chlorophyll and lose their green color, and to begin the process that causes leaves to drop.

Rain is another factor. Trees that don't receive enough rain during the summer become stressed, and are less likely to produce vibrant color in the fall. Some autumn rain is desirable, but continuous, warm, cloudy weather is not, since that would hinder the sugar production that creates the brilliant reds and golds found in oaks and maples, Michigan's most prevalent tree species.

How many species of trees are there, and what colors do they turn?

There are nearly 150 different species of trees in our 18.6 million acres of forest, with a colorful mix of reds, oranges, yellows, and golds. Such hardwoods as aspen, maple, birch, sumac, and oak display some of the most beautiful colors. When combined with a background of evergreen forest, the result is one of the best shows in the nation. □

Source: AAA Michigan

Letter to the Editor

"Youth Day" Supporters Thanked

To the Editor:

I saw your article about the annual Youth Day program hosted by St. John's Lodge #44 at the Thomas A. Coleman Center on August 25. (See *the little paper*, Vol. 21, No. 4.) The article acknowledged Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano for his donation of backpacks for local children.

I would like to give additional acknowledgment to Romulus City Councilman Harry Crout and Romulus Community Schools Board of Education member Sandy Crout, who were on hand all day to help with the event, as well as Romulus City Council Chairman Randy Gear, who also stopped by.

Mrs. Crout donated school supplies to the American Progressive Association, too.

I would like to thank them all for

taking an active part in community events.

Sincerely,
Bronson Bell, president
American Progressive Association
Romulus

* * *

Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity.

Names will be withheld by request only in exceptional cases where, in our opinion, there is a legitimate reason to do so. All letters requesting anonymity will be treated confidentially, regardless of whether or not they are printed.

The little paper reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and, if necessary, brevity. □

Capitol Update

Presidential Primary Set for January 15

By State Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood, 22nd District

Governor Jennifer Granholm recently signed legislation moving the Michigan Presidential Primary to January 15. The move places Michigan firmly in a position to hear the candidates for President and, just as importantly, for the candidates to hear about the issues facing Michigan.

Michigan's diversity, both demographically and economically, makes our state an excellent barometer of the Nation as a whole. I look forward to hearing from the candidates as they address the issues facing our state, such as Fair Trade, health care, and restoring America's standing in the world. **House Passes Bill to Fund Sexual Assault Crisis Centers**

The House of Representatives recently passed a package of bills designed to fund sexual assault crisis centers that provide evidence-gathering and counseling for sexual assault victims. House Bill 5054 would create the Sexual Assault Victims' Medical Forensic Intervention and Treatment fund, and money

for the fund would be collected from an increase in the fines collected by the Justice System Fund. The Justice System Fund receives funding from various sources, including fines from traffic violations, misdemeanors and felonies.

House Bills 5055 and 5056 provide a means for funding the provision of services to both police and rape victims offered by trained sexual assault nurse examiners. The package of bills provide consistent funding for this very important program.

Currently, the funding for these costs in Michigan is uncertain. Victim examinations are currently funded through a variety of methods, including private insurance, private dollars, or through Federal grant funding. However, Federal funding has recently suffered drastic cutbacks and is very limited.

The package of bills (HB 5054-5057) now heads to the Michigan Senate for consideration. □

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Housing Team Seeks Improvements

Taylor Mayor Cameron G. Priebe has appointed a community housing team tasked with improving the quality of life for residents. Priebe has appointed retired Taylor police commander Jon Belanger as community housing coordinator. Debbie Knight, who has been administrative assistant in the Mayor's Office, has been assigned additional duties to assist Belanger.

The Mayor also announced an initiative to target rental housing units for improvement throughout the city. Priebe, who was instrumental in initiating the redevelopment of the Villages of Taylor in the southwest section of the city, said work on those rental units needs to be completed, and the same effort must spread to other parts of the community. He added that a number of the apartment complexes in Taylor have concerns that involve safety, trash, transiency, crime, and social issues that spread into other neighborhoods in the city.

"We have 23 apartment complexes in Taylor," Priebe said. "Many of them have different lease policies and suitable behavior policies. We want to come up with a fair, equitable, and consistent set of rules that can be enforced in these rental units to make it safe and comfortable for the good people of our city."

In addition, Belanger has been charged with seeking more home-ownership opportunities for low-income people who are currently renting, in keeping with the theory that people who own homes tend to care about their property more, which makes a better community. Priebe said he wanted to hire people to deal with the problems, make life better for people living in and around rental housing, and help "bend the cycle of poverty for some low-income people."

Belanger, who retired from the Police Department in 1992, was employed as the director of security for the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co., which operated the Farmer Jack stores in Michigan. Belanger was responsible for asset protection functions in more than 80 large-scale stores and three distribution centers, and was reportedly instrumental in reducing stock loss by millions of dollars. When Farmer Jack stores closed, Belanger was contacted by Priebe to see if he could use his talents in city government.

"Jon has a police background and understands city operations," the Mayor said. "He understands how the apartments often get a disproportionate load of attention from our Police and Fire Departments, and how transiency affects our City and School services."

"As a top manager in the private sector for the past 15 years, he understands the business perspective of how a city operates," Priebe continued. "He has a reputation as a strong, stand-up kind of guy and a hard worker who gets the job done."

Belanger has a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice, and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy. During his time with the Police Department, he worked undercover as a narcotics officer early in his career, and later obtained two federal grants that brought more than \$150,000 to the City.

Knight has worked 10 years for the City, including the rental division of the Building Department. She is currently completing the requirements for a bachelor's degree in business management.

In his new role, Belanger has established a number of goals and objectives.

- Review and update City ordinances that pertain to multi-dwelling and rental properties, including apartment inspections.
 - Coordinate with rental property owners and managers to upgrade their facilities by complying with City codes and ordinances. This, he said, could include anything from running criminal background checks on potential renters to towing abandoned cars. The goal is to provide quality housing in a safe and secure environment for people living in the units and in the surrounding neighborhoods.
 - Research and develop a proactive program that could rate complexes based on their attractiveness and safety.
 - Set up a communication network between City officials and the owners of the apartments and other rental housing. Goals include scheduling regular meetings and developing neighborhood watch and fire safety programs.
 - Develop a long-term innovative approach to eventually "deconcentrate" some apartment complexes by reducing the number of units and increasing recreation and green space, much like the concept adopted in the Villages of Taylor. Goals are to improve the overall quality of life in those settings and increase property values.
 - Work with apartment owners to convert rental units to condominiums, thereby providing more home-ownership opportunities.
 - Seek funds through Federal and State programs to help people become home owners.
 - Work with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to develop a program that would match homes with senior citizens and lower-income residents who are interested in becoming homeowners.
- Belanger and Knight said they are excited about the new challenges.
- "This is all about the quality of life in our city," Belanger said. "We want to improve our housing stock in Taylor and attract good people who put down roots."
- "People need to take pride in their community. That's what this is all about."

Community Calendar

- **Itch to Stitch** – The knitting group "Itch to Stitch" brings beginners together with people experienced in the craft to share ideas, tips, patterns, and instruction. Upcoming meetings at the Taylor Community Library (12303 Pardee) are set for Tuesday, September 25, and Tuesday, October 30.
- **Fall Storytime** – The Romulus Public Library's fall storytime program for ages 3–5 will offer parents a choice of morning (10:30 a.m. Wednesdays from September 26 through October 31) or evening (6:30 p.m. Tuesdays from September 25 through October 30) sessions. Although the program is free, advance registration is required. Space is limited. Call 734-942-7589.
- **Book Discussion Group** – Join the Taylor Community Library's book club for relaxed discussion and light refreshments at 6:30 p.m. one Wednesday each month. Titles selected for future meetings include *An Unquiet Grave* by P.J. Parrish (September 26) and *A Stronger Kinship: One Town's Extraordinary Story of Hope and Faith* by Anna-Lisa Cox (October 24). The library is located at 12303 Pardee. Call 734-287-4840 for information.
- **Blood Drive** – The Taylor Police Department will host a blood drive behind the police station (23515 Goddard) on Thursday, September 27, from noon to 6 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome. Contact Marge at 734-374-1445 or send an e-mail to mmaladec@ci.taylor.mi.us for more information.
- **Flea Market** – St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (corner of Craig and Ellis streets, New Boston) will host its semiannual Flea Market from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. September 27–29. Call 734-753-9048 for information.
- **Meet with the Mayor** – Discuss ideas and concerns with Taylor Mayor Cameron G. Priebe at Taylor City Hall (23555 Goddard) on Wednesday, October 3, from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information, call 734-374-1449.
- **Bowling Night** – The Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce will host its second annual Bowling Night at Lodge Lanes (South I-94 Service Drive, west of Belleville Road) on Saturday, October 6, from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. Cost of \$40 per couple/\$20 per person includes three games of 9-pin no-tap bowling; pizza, various game prizes, door prizes, and more. Cash bar. Space is limited; register early. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the CAF 5 Prescription Drug Program. Advance tickets must be purchased by September 28. Call 734-893-0694 or e-mail info@romuluschamber.org.
- **"Second Monday" Book Club** – Meetings of the Romulus Public Library's Second Monday Book Club – open to everyone 18 and older – are held at the library (11121 Wayne Road) from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Advance registration is not required; just read the suggested book, then drop in. Books planned for discussion include *The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver (October 8), *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* by Stephen King (November 12), and *Evensong* by Gail Godwin (December 10). Call 734-942-7589 for info.
- **Roast Beef Dinner** – Community United Methodist Church (11160 Olive, Romulus) will host a roast beef dinner on Saturday, October 13, from 5 to 7 p.m. Donations: \$8 for adults; \$4 for ages 6–12. Proceeds will be used for the purchase of choir robes. For carry-outs, call 734-941-0736.
- **Sweet Harvest** – The Taylor Conservatory Foundation is inviting the public to attend Sweet Harvest: A Celebration of Chocolate, Wine, and Romance. The event – which will feature scrumptious desserts, gourmet chocolates, wine, specialty coffees, and light hors d'oeuvres, as well as a silent auction, truffle raffle, and "sweet-treat roulette" – will be held at Crystal Gardens Banquet Center on Wednesday, October 17, from 6 to 9 p.m. Cost is \$50 per ticket; \$35 of that amount is tax deductible. Call 888-383-4108.
- **Rummage Sale** – Whispering Willows Co-op (Wayne Road south of Goddard, Romulus) will host its annual rummage sale on Thursday, October 18, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Friday, October 19, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturday, October 20, from 9 a.m. to noon.
- **Events at the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village** – To find out more about these upcoming events at the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, call 313-982-6001 or visit www.TheHenryFord.org: **Fall Season Farmers Market** (September 29 and October 6, Greenfield Village), **Halloween in Greenfield Village** (October 12–14, 19–21, and 26–28), and **Greenfield Village Holiday Homes Tour** (November 23–25, November 30–December 2, and December 7–9, 14–16, 21–23, and 28–30).

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; e-mail it to thelittlepaper@comcast.net; or FAX it to 734-992-2052.

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Parade, Pumpkin Festival Celebrated Season with Fall Fun

Another successful Parade of Lights and Pumpkin Festival set new attendance records for both events, drawing thousands of people from all over southeast Michigan to the City of Romulus the weekend of September 14-16.

Kicking things off at dusk on Friday was the Romulus Rotary-sponsored parade, which featured brilliantly illuminated vehicles and floats decorated in a variety of fall themes. First, second, and third prizes were awarded in three categories: commercial, motorized, and nonmotorized. Winners were chosen by popular vote through more than 1,500 ballots cast at the Rotary's festival booth.

Commercial category winners were:

- first place: Haunted Hill Acres of Sumpter ("pirate ship") – 477 votes;
- second place: Brian Johnson ("Tow-Mater") – 304 votes; and
- third place: Romulus Community Schools transportation department (school bus) – 221 votes.

Motorized winners were:

- first place: Romulus High School Class of 2008 – 351 votes;
- second place: Barth Elementary School – 302 votes; and
- third place: Carl Smith ("Dead Beat" hearse) – 79 votes.

Nonmotorized winners were:

- first place: Romulus High School Marching Band – 361 votes;
- second place: Lewkowicz family (unicycles) – 171 votes; and
- third place: Bob Pease ("BJ Carriage") – 152 votes.

The festival itself featured a variety of entertainments. Highlights included live and DJ music, craft booths, car and tractor shows, historical exhibits, "family fun" programs, and basketball and roller-hockey tournaments. A Teen Tent offered video-game tournaments and a "So You Think You Can Dance?" contest. Bingo, "pet pageant," and breakfast/dinner programs benefited various worthy causes. Giving the festival a real old-time flavor were competitions in everything from pie-baking to pie-eating.

Contest winners included:

Sunflower-growing Contests

- Phyllis Andrzejewski (largest face)
- Alexandra Frederick (tallest)

Canning Contests

- Jim and Sandy Chapman (tomatoes)
- Wendy Leland (pickles)

Pie-baking Contests

- Phyllis Kaminsky (pumpkin)
- Daniel Tatomer (apple, peach, and sweet potato)

Pie-eating Contests

- Andrew Eves (ages 3-4)
- Caleb Chapman (ages 5-6)
- Hannah Baynesan (age 7)
- Adam Albert (age 8)
- Wallace Dupree (ages 9-10)
- Diane Fortune and Ashleigh Walter (ages 11-12)
- James Chapman, Sr. (adults)

Pumpkin-rolling Contests

- Keely Wenino (age 4)
- Joey Hitchcock (age 5)
- Gabrielle Fyfe (ages 6-7)
- Jacob Prebienda (age 8)
- Karra Yeramian (ages 9-10)
- James Chapman (ages 11 and up)
- Dominique Buckley (adults)

Sack Races

- Alyssa Chapman and Keely Wenino (ages 4 and under)
- Nathan Snyder (age 5)
- Hailey Toner (ages 6-7)
- J'Won Patterson (age 8)
- Kate Orr and Kara Yeramian (ages 9-10)
- Jacob Chapman (ages 11 and up)
- Cicely Shaw (adults)

Marshmallow Races

- Nicole Prybyla (age 4)
- Caleb Chapman (ages 5-6)
- Joshua Chapman (boys, ages 7-8)
- Katlyn Adkins (girls, ages 7-8)
- Jasmine Morgan (age 9)
- Quinn Chapman (age 10)
- James Chapman (ages 11 and up)
- Ashley McGlynn (mixed)
- Dominique Buckley (adult men)
- Cecily Shaw (adult women)

Airplane Races

- Samantha Fyfe (age 4)

- Caleb Chapman (ages 5-6)
- Shanna Wright (age 7)
- Joshua Chapman (boys, age 8)
- Jessica Williams (girls, age 8)
- K'Lynn Wright (age 9)
- Karra Yeramian (age 10)
- James Chapman (ages 11-14)
- Tracy Chapman (adults)

Treasure Hunts

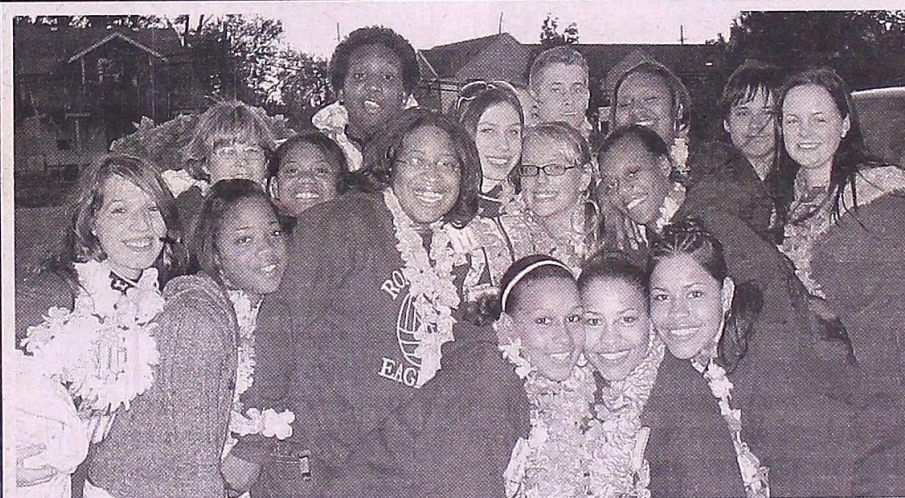
- Brandon Von Otten (ages 1-2)

- Andrew Eves and Connor Von Otten (ages 3-4)
- Spencer Apsley (ages 5-6)
- Paul Burcroff (age 7)
- Ashley McGlynn (age 8)
- Vincent Camilleri (age 9)
- Jasmine Morgan (age 10)
- Blaire Sarans (ages 11 and up)
- Martel Anderson (adults)

More photos on page 6. □



The Romulus High School Marching Band took first-place honors in the Parade of Lights "nonmotorized" division.



Romulus High School teacher Cynthia Thackaberry (back, second from left) was proud of the efforts of the Class of 2008, which won the parade's "motorized" division. Among those who took part in the parade were: (from left) front – Jackie Johnson, Janeice Johnson, and Joya Johnson; middle – Monique Walker, Rachel Arthur, Tranay Tanner, Abigail Tieppo, Katrina Jadzinski, and Dierrie Golden; back – Kristin Leigh, Raymont Holt, Eric Berger, Shaniya Dye, Vaughn Liendo, and Tiffany Conradson.

A SPECIAL THANKS

This year's Pumpkin Festival was the biggest and best ever. I want to thank the Pumpkin Festival Committee for all their hard work, the Rotary Club for sponsoring the Parade of Lights, the citizens of Romulus, and all the vendors, performers, and out-of-town guests who made this an event enjoyed by every one of the thousands in attendance.

– Alan R. Lambert, Mayor
City of Romulus



The Haunted Hill Acres pirate ship won the commercial division.

Pumpkin Festival



Lieutenant John Thiede (left) and other Romulus firefighters taught fire safety to youngsters attending the Romulus Pumpkin Festival.



Andrew (left) and Neveeh Eves took a rest after competing in the pumpkin-rolling and sack-race contests on Saturday.



Alyssa Chapman was just one step ahead of Kerlee Judge in the marshmallow-carrying race held on Sunday.



(From left) Assistant Scoutmaster Gary Becht, Boy Scout Kyle Linderman, and Assistant Scoutmaster Tom Witherow were among those who worked on the Troop #872 (St. Aloysius, Romulus) Pancake Breakfast fund-raiser held Saturday morning. Altogether, the troop garnered \$600 for the Friends of the New Romulus Animal Shelter.

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Around Romulus



Performing one of the most pleasant tasks at this year's Romulus Pumpkin Festival, held September 14–16, were the canning/baking contest judges: (from left) Mary Dolencic, Myra Kreyger, and Marge Taylor.



Romulus City Councilman Bill Wadsworth (left) presented Lois Ayers with Council's memorial resolution recognizing her late husband Frank, who passed away earlier this year. Ayers had partnered with Wadsworth on the annual bingo benefit for the Friends of the New Romulus Animal Shelter Fund every year since its inception. Pictured at right is Joe Ozog, who has also been instrumental to the running of the bingo benefits.

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Romulus resident Sheldon Chandler was among several dozen people who took part in a "Battle of the Badges" Red Cross blood drive held by the City of Romulus on the anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Mayor Alan R. Lambert was proud to announce that the 40 pints donated exceeded the City's 35-pint goal, and thanked everyone who organized and/or participated in the event.

Recreation Programs

For more information about these programs, contact the appropriate rec center. (Schedules subject to change.)

Romulus

11189 Shook • 734-941-8665

M-F 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Daddy/Daughter Dance

The annual Daddy/Daughter Dance will be held on Wednesday, October 10, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Romulus High School.

A cost of \$12 per couple (plus \$4 for each additional daughter) includes pizza. Preregister by 5 p.m. on Monday, October 8.

Peewee Basketball

A co-ed basketball league for grades K-2 will meet at Halecreek Elementary School from October 29 through December 14. Practices will be held on Mondays, Tuesdays, or Wednesdays (two days the first week; one thereafter); games will be played on Fridays.

Residents' cost (includes reversible jersey) is \$45 for one child, \$85 for two immediate family members, or \$125 for three family members. Nonresident fees are \$70 for one child, \$135 for two family members, or \$200 for three. Registrations will be accepted until all 60 spaces are filled or Monday, October 22.

Note: Volunteer coaches are needed. For more information, call the Recreation Center.

Tae Kwon Do

Classes in tae kwon do – open to ages 6 to adult – teach self-defense, help participants strengthen their bodies and minds, and teach values such as self-discipline, self-respect, and respect for others. Qualified students will be able to attend competitions.

Classes will meet at Romulus High School twice a week from October 16 through December 13 according to the following schedule:

- beginners to green belt: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- advanced (blue belt and up): 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Cost is \$50 for one student, \$85 for two immediate family members, or \$120 for three family members. Preregister by Friday, October 12.

Teen Open Basketball

Romulus residents *only* (proof of residency required) are invited to take part in this drop-in basketball program for ages 13 to 17, to be held at Romulus Middle School from 7 to 9 p.m. each Monday through December 17.

Cost is \$2 (cash) per night. No preregistration is required.

Adult Open Basketball

Romulus residents *only* (proof of residency required) are invited to take part in this drop-in basketball program for ages 18 and up, to be held at Romulus Middle School from 7 to 9 p.m. each Tuesday through December 18.

Cost is \$2 (cash) per night. No preregistration is required.

Adult Open Volleyball

Residents and nonresidents alike are invited to take part in this drop-in volleyball program for ages 18 and up, to be held at Romulus Middle School from 7 to 9 p.m. each Thursday through May 29, 2008 (except when school is not in session). Basic skills are required.

Cost is \$1 (cash) per night. No preregistration is required.

Midday Hatha Yoga for Adults

Improve flexibility, strength, posture, and balance while gaining a sense of well-being in this hatha yoga class, which will focus on stretching, breath-work, and relaxation. Classes will meet in the Recreation Center from 12 to 1 p.m. each Monday from October 8 through December 17.

Cost for the 10-week session is \$70. Preregister by Friday, October 5.

Adult Culinary Training Program

Learn from the best! Master chef Chuck Usztics Jr., MS, CHE, is offering the following classes from 6 to 9 p.m. at Romulus High School:

- September 26: sanitation, cutting boards, knives (types of cuts), and vegetable preparation
- October 3: breakfast (eggs, batters)
- October 10: desserts (cupcakes, cake-making, frosting)
- October 17: soups
- November 7: sauces
- November 14: sautéing (stir-fry, pasta primavera)
- November 28: pasta/Italian
- December 5: students' choice

Cost is \$40 for one class or \$300 for all eight. Equipment, utensils, aprons, hair nets, and food are included in the cost. Preregister by the Monday before class. Minimum of five people needed.

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Memberships

All memberships include use of the weight room, cardiovascular room, indoor track, gymnasium, dry sauna, and locker room showers, as well as a 30-minute, total-body workout. Yearly members receive a discount on court rentals, and have unlimited access to aerobics classes and open swimming at the three Taylor pool locations (Community Center, Northwest, and Kennedy).

Resident membership fees:

- one month: \$30
- three months: \$75
- six months: \$100
- one year: \$200
- one year (age 55+): \$130

Nonresident membership fees:

- one month: \$60
- three months: \$100
- six months: \$125
- one year: \$250
- on year (age 55+): \$200

Learn to Skate

The next "Learn to Skate" program at the Taylor Sportsplex (13333 Telegraph) will run from October 29 through December 22.

Cost is \$69 per skater, with a \$10 multi-skater family discount available. For more information about the program, please call 734-374-8900.

Adult Open Basketball

Ages 17 and up (proof of age required) are invited to take part in this adult open basketball program, which will meet at the Recreation Center according to the following schedule (subject to change):

- Wednesdays, 5 to 7 p.m.
- Fridays, 7 to 9 p.m.
- Saturdays, 3 to 7 p.m.
- Sundays, 12 to 4 p.m.

Cost is \$4 for residents (proof of residency required); \$6 for nonresidents.

More Basketball

The Community Center also offers open family and youth basketball programs. Call for dates and times.

Yoga and Aerobics Classes

A number of yoga and aerobics classes, currently open to new students, offer a wide variety of fitness options. Stop in and pick up a flyer for more info.

Petting Farm Events

Upcoming events at the Heritage Park Petting Farm (12803 Pardee, at Northline) include:

- Wild Weekend (October 13-14)
- Boo Barn (October 27-28)
- Reindeer Days (December 15-16)

For more information about these or other Petting Farm events (including birthday parties), call 734-374-5946.

Safe Halloween

Children ages 10 and under can trick-or-treat in a safe environment at Heritage Park (12803 Pardee, at Northline) on Wednesday, October 31, from 5 to 7 p.m. For more information about this free event, call 734-374-3906.

Theater Arts for Youths

Ages 6-13 are welcome to sign up for this 10-week theater arts class, which will meet from 2:30 to 4 p.m. each Saturday beginning November 4.

Cost is \$50 for residents; \$55 for nonresidents. Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged. For more information, call 734-374-3906.

Brownstown

21313 Telegraph • 734-675-0920

M-F 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Mom & Tots Crafts

Parents with children ages 2-5 will complete crafts together in this class, which will meet at the Community Center each Saturday from September 29 through October 27.

Cost (includes supplies) is \$41 for residents; \$46 for nonresidents.

Mother/Son Fall Swing

This annual dance – open to mothers and sons age 3+ – will be held at the Community Center on Friday, October 19, from 7 to 8:15 p.m.

Cost (includes a cowboy hat for the boys and a special gift for mom) is \$15 per couple plus \$2 for each additional son. *Advance tickets required.*

Family Fun Nights

Families (all children must be accompanied by an adult) will enjoy spending an evening using the Brownstown Middle School gym and pool during Fun Night programs, which will be held from 7:15 to 9 p.m. each Thursday starting October 18.

Cost is \$1 at the door.

Youth Basketball

This youth basketball league – open to boys and girls in grades 4-8 in the Gibraltar and Woodhaven-Brownstown school districts – guarantees that no players will be cut, and all will play at least 25% of each game. Practices (at the elementary schools) will start in late November; games (at Woodhaven and Gibraltar Carlson high schools) will be played starting the weekend of December 8-9.

Cost is \$45 per child. Register at the Brownstown Community Center or Carlson High School on Monday, November 5, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Late registrations will be accepted until November 23 or teams are filled. □



~ Crane ~

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"Celebrity" Bingo

Local dignitaries who will be calling Bingo in the coming month include:

- Mayor Alan R. Lambert (October 10),
- Councilman John Barden (October 17), and
- 34th District Court Judge Tina Brooks Green (October 24).

All games begin at 1 p.m.

Halloween Luncheon

The Center's Halloween luncheon will feature a costume contest, with prizes awarded for the best entry in each of three categories: "most colorful," "funniest," and "favorite."

The day's menu: "ghoulish" meatballs, "ghostly" mashed potatoes, "zombie" mixed vegetables, and "witches' brew" beverage.

Cost is \$4. Sign up in advance.

Men's Club

The Senior Center is exploring the possibility of forming a men's club. If interested, stop in or call and ask for Rose.

Shopping Trips

Romulus seniors can ride the Center's van, free of charge, for shopping at Meijer/Southland (Monday, October 1), Wal-Mart/Kroger (Monday, October 8), and/or at Kmart (Monday, October 15).

All trips depart at 9:30 a.m.

Seating is limited; advance registration is required.

Lunch Out

The Senior Center van will be traveling to the Cracker Barrel on October 12 and Country Buffet on October 22. Both trips depart at 11 a.m. Sign up at the Center if you would like to attend.

Jewelry Class

Maria Lambert makes creating beautiful jewelry both fun and easy in this one-afternoon class, to be held at the Center at noon on Wednesday, October 17. A \$10 cost covers materials.

Regular Programs

Be sure to check out these free or low-cost weekly programs that are offered at the Romulus Senior Center:

- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- bingo (Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- fun night (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- game day (Thursdays, 1 p.m.), and
- quilting (Thursdays, 6 p.m.).

Everyone is welcome!

Hot Lunches

Too hot to cook? Don't forget that the Romulus Senior Center serves a hot lunch at 11:30 a.m. each weekday for a suggested donation of only \$2.25.

Taylor

6750 Troy • 313-291-7740

Halloween Party

Musical entertainment and a catered meal will highlight the Taylor Center's upcoming Halloween Party, set for Thursday, October 25, from 2 to 6 p.m. Tickets are \$12. Sign up at the Center.

Dial-a-Ride

Need a ride to the Center? Free transportation is available; just call 24 hours in advance for scheduling.

A Trip to the Doctor ...

Bus transportation is available each weekday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for doctor appointments within the city limits.

Cost is \$2. Call 24 hours in advance for scheduling.

Regular Programs

Regular programs offered at the Center include:

- bingo (Tuesdays, 12:30 p.m., and Fridays, 9:30 a.m.),
- pinochle (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 1 to 4 p.m.),
- bridge (Fridays, 12:30 p.m.), and
- birthday bashes (last Thursdays, reservation required).

Brownstown

21311 Telegraph • 734-675-0920

Computer Classes

The Center offers computer classes (Introduction to Computers, Introduction to Microsoft Word, and Intermediate Microsoft Word) that meet twice a week for three weeks.

Cost for each is \$40.

Pleasure Seekers

The Pleasure Seekers senior club meets at the Center on the first and third Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. The club regularly hosts dances and other events. Annual dues are \$10.

Halloween Dinner Dance

The next monthly dinner dance will be a Halloween party, to be held on Thursday, October 25. Purchase tickets at the Recreation Department.

Regular Events

Regular programs offered by the Center include:

- Travel Club (second Mondays, 10:30 a.m.),
- Fun Lovers Band (Mondays, 1 p.m.),
- potlucks (fourth Mondays, 5 p.m.),
- card-playing (Tuesdays, 12:30 p.m.),
- basic quilting (Wednesdays, 9 a.m.),
- bowling (Fridays, 1 p.m., Flat Rock Lanes),
- exercise (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10 a.m.), and
- blood-pressure checks (first Thursdays, noon). □

Make It with Michelle

Beautiful Beaded Watch Band Facilitates Fashion Flexibility

By Michelle Major

I have a confession to make. ... "My name is Michelle, and I have a box full of unfinished craft projects ... several unfinished craft projects."

My hope is that writing this column once a month will help me complete some of the things I have started, and inspire you along the way. I've been doing crafts for as long as I can remember (I'm 49), and, for as long as I can remember, I have started projects and not finished them – not because I didn't like them or got discouraged, but because something else came along that caught my eye, and I just had to try to make it.

In all the years that have come and gone since then, there aren't many crafts that I haven't tried. I do finish many of them, and have found several that I will always do. I suppose that all the trials and errors help me in my job. (I work at the Michaels® arts & crafts store in Westland.) I think my experience helps customers find what they need to at least "start" their projects.

I'm always looking for inspiration for crafting, decorating, and cooking. I'm pretty good at duplicating recipes from restaurants, filing decorating ideas away in my head to use at a later date, and finding crafting ideas while I'm out and about.

This month's inspiration came from a visit to Cracker Barrel® about a year ago. I saw, on the checkout counter, a display of beaded watch bands, and knew right away that I wanted to make my own. What I really liked about the idea was that they were easily detachable, so they could be switched around with other watch faces and could be coordinated with my outfit for the day. But I had never had good instruction on how to do beading, so, I signed up for one of the beading classes at work. I told the instructor what I wanted to do ... and, in less than 2 hours, I had my first watchband finished.

Now, here is the "unfinished" part of my story: I bought beads for two more watchbands, but never completed them; I never even started them! So, today, I finished one. I hope you like the idea as much as I do. It's really simple. It's really fun. It's really cute. And, best of all, you will get tons of compliments when you wear it.

Supplies List:

- watch face
- Beadalon® 49-strand bead wire
- crimp beads
- 2 lobster claw clasps
- beads of your choice (I chose three different styles of glass beads)

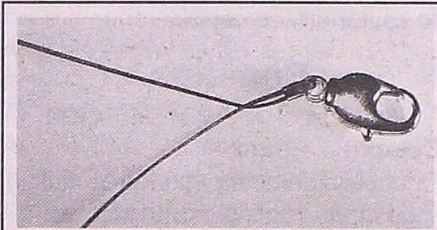


figure #1



figure #2



figure #3

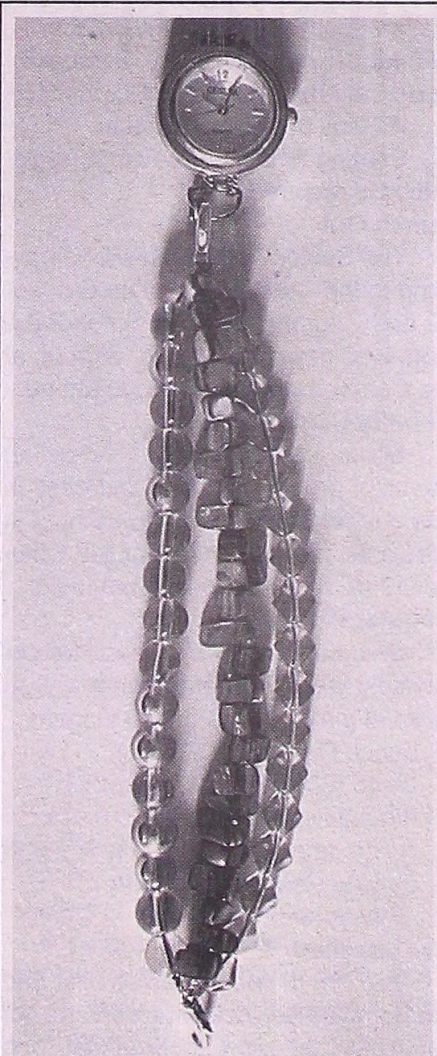


figure #4

- wire cutters
- crimping pliers
- needle-nose pliers and/or tweezers
- bead design board (optional)

Directions:

Step #1 – Measure your wrist.

Step #2 – Measure your watch face.

Step #3 – Add the two figures, and cut a piece of wire to that length plus one inch. (It helps to have a little extra to work with. The excess is trimmed away at the end.)

Step #4 – String your wire through the first lobster claw.

Step #5 – Thread both ends of the wire through a crimp bead, leaving about an inch of wire past the crimp bead on one end. Make sure your wire is "fairly" tight against the lobster claw – but not too tight, or your wire will break from stress on it. (See figure #1.)

Step #6 – Use the crimping pliers to squeeze the crimp bead together. This locks the wire in place.

Step #7 – String your beads to the desired length. If you are making one like mine, repeat steps #3 to #7 two more times. (See figure #2.)

Step #8 – String each wire through another crimp bead.

Step #9 – String each wire through the second lobster claw.

Step #10 – Thread each wire back through its crimp bead.

Step #11 – Use your crimping pliers to squeeze each crimp bead in place. (See figure #3.)

Step #12 – Thread your excess wire back through your beads as far as you can. I try to go at least half an inch. (This is where the needle-nose pliers or tweezers come in handy; you can use them to push the wire through the beads.) Trim the excess wire. You're done! (See figure #4.)

The tweezers also help in picking up beads if they are small, and the bead board is a great tool for keeping your beads from rolling away. You can lay out your work on the board before you begin, and it comes with measurement marks so you always know how long your string of beads is.

Skill level: beginner

Time to complete: One hour

Cost: \$40–\$50 (if you buy the tools, too). Don't forget to watch the sale papers and use your coupons to bring the cost down by as much as 40%.

You will have wire, crimp beads, lobster claws, and (depending on how many you purchased) beads left over, so you can make another watch band for a friend or a coordinating necklace-and-earrings set for yourself. □

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 Maternal Grandparents _____
 Address _____
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 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

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 City _____ State _____
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 City _____ State _____
 Groom's Parents _____
 City _____ State _____
 Bridesmaids _____
 Groomsmen _____
 Date of Engagement _____
 Date of Wedding _____
 Place _____
 City _____ State _____
 Reception _____
 City _____ State _____
 Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information
concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

The Stork Arrived

Graham Pattison Gamber

Proudly announcing the birth of their son, Graham Pattison Gamber, are Tim and Liza Gamber of Las Vegas, Nevada.

Graham was born in Las Vegas Valley View Hospital at 9:24 a.m. on Saturday, September 1, 2007, weighing 8 lbs., 4 oz., and measuring 20.5 in.

Especially excited about the new arrival was his big sister, two-year-old Molly Elizabeth Gamber.

Also giving Graham a warm welcome into the family were his paternal grandparents, Fred Pattison Gamber (Monroe, MI) and Sharon Cant (Romulus, MI), and his maternal grandparents, Robert and Patricia Parker (Romulus).

Both Tim and Liza are Romulus High School alumni. □



Graham and Molly Gamber

Wedding Bells

Travis and Natasha (Brown) Mushung

Congratulations to newlyweds Travis and Natasha (Brown) Mushung, who were married on August 18, 2007. The couple – who reside in St. Clairsville, Ohio – exchanged vows at the Little Wedding Chapel in Taylor, Michigan.

Standing up with Travis was his best man, Jason Wolf, and groomsmen Jeff Johnson, Brad Messer, and Nathan Kissel. Natasha was attended by her maid of honor, Jessica Shelton, and bridesmaids Jennifer Shelton, Kayla Dizney, and Megan Brown. Ryan Brown (son of Travis and Natasha) and Krista Shupe were the ringbearer and flower girl, respectively.

Travis is the son of Paul and Darlene Mushung (Monroe, MI) and David and Diane Ambrus (Warner Robins, GA).

Natasha's parents are Timothy and Tami Brown (Romulus, MI). □



Natasha and Travis Mushung

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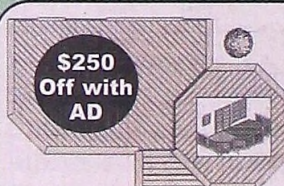
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